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and of displaying the first information on a device window; and

a second display step of acquiring a second information of the selected network device from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device window when a user has requested display of the second information, wherein the second information is different from the first information.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 18, 2001. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 17-22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, and 56-89 are pending in this application, with Claims 1-3, 20, 31, and 57 having been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, and with new Claims 60-89 having been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 8, 12-16, 23, 26, 29, 32, 34-47, 49, 52, and 55 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, with Claims 34-47 having been canceled as a result of the restriction requirement of October 2, 2000. Claims 1-6 and 57-59 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement and a corresponding Form PTO-1449 were filed on June 19, 2000, as evidenced by the receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449, indicating the reference cited thereon was considered.

Claims 20 and 31 were objected to because of the informalities noted in section 2 of the Office Action. Claims 20 and 31 have been reviewed and amended, as deemed necessary, to correct the noted informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-33 and 48-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,778,377 (Marlin et al.). Cancellation of Claims 8, 12-16, 23, 26, 29, 32, 49, 52, and 55 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 1-6 and 57-59, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a displaying method, in which a plurality of network devices is managed, information related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices is acquired, and the acquired information of the selected network device is displayed. According to the method, a first display step acquires a first information related to the selected network device and displays the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device. A second display step of the method acquires, from the selected network device, a second information different from the first information and displays the second information on a second screen of the device window, when a user has requested display of the second screen.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that, if a user requests display of the second screen, then the second information is acquired and displayed on the second screen. The second information is different from the first information displayed on the initial screen. By

virtue of this feature, it is possible to acquire and display specific information related to the selected network device, and it is not necessary to acquire and display all the information related to the selected network device at one time.

Marlin et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a graphical user interface (GUI) for workstations connected to a network. Apparently, Marlin et al. teaches a technique for displaying a status of a printer. (See, for example, column 14, lines 50-71.) Nothing has been found in Marlin et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a displaying method that includes "a second display step of acquiring, from the selected network device, a second information different from the first information and displaying the second information on a second screen of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of the second screen," as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action states that the second display step is taught by Marlin et al. at column 15, lines 54-66. As understood by Applicants, however, that portion of Marlin et al. merely teaches that the GUI checks for messages from a window manager and, if a status timer message has been received, then the date/time status is updated on the same window (screen) as presently being displayed. If other buttons have been depressed, then a chain action processor 311 is invoked. If a polling timer message has been received, then polling is performed and, if changes are indicated, then the display is updated on the same window (screen) as presently being displayed.

Thus, Marlin et al. is understood to merely updates information that is already being displayed on the window (screen), and fails to disclose or suggest the use of two different

screens, one for displaying a first information, and the other for displaying a second information different from the first information, with the second screen being displayed when requested by a user, as claimed in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Marlin et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 1 and 3 are apparatus and computer recording medium claims corresponding to Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claims 4-6 and 57-59 include the same feature, in which second information different from first information is displayed when so requested by a user, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 4-6 and 57-59 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully

request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Application No. 09/017,295
Attorney Docket No. 862.2098

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A displaying method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information [from] related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network [devices] device, said method comprising:

a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network device and displaying [a] the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

a second display step of acquiring, from the selected network device, a second information different from the first information and displaying [a] the second information on a second screen of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of [different information related to the selected network device] the second screen.

2. (Twice Amended) A network device control apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information [from] related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquiring information of the selected network device, comprising:

a first display unit for acquiring a first information related to the selected network device and displaying [a] the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a

window allocated to the selected network device; and

a second display unit for acquiring, from the selected network device, a second information related to the selected network device and displaying [a] the second information on a second screen of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of [different information related to the selected network device] the second screen.

3. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing a managing method of managing a plurality of network devices, an acquiring method of acquiring information [from] related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and a displaying method of displaying acquired information, [said] the program comprising:

program code for a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network device and displaying [a] the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

program code for a second display step of acquiring, from the selected network device, a second information related to the selected network device and displaying [a] the second information on a second screen of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of [different information related to the selected network device] the second screen.

Claims 8 and 12-16 have been canceled.

20. (Twice Amended) A recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the user specifies initial sheet information on an initial [she] sheet information screen in the initial sheet information specifying step.

Claims 23, 26, and 29 have been canceled.

31. (Twice Amended) A network device control method according to claim 7, wherein the information acquisition step comprises:

a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not [to] all sheet information was displayed;

a network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed;

a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information;

a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information;

a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired by the network device information acquisition step;

a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device information holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held;

a network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step;

a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step;

an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step;

a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step;

a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and

an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step.

Claims 32, 34-47, 49, 52, and 55 have been canceled.

57. (Amended) A method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said method comprising:

a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device window; and

a second display step of acquiring a second information of the selected network device from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device window when a user has requested display of the second information,

wherein the second information is different from the first information.

N.E.
New Claims 60-89 have been added.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date 06 / 19 / 00
Mo. Day Yr.

Atty. Docket 862-2098

Application No. 09/017,295

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